

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 DHA-02 CU-02 /083 W  
-----262154Z 056309 /73/53

R 261400Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5648  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 0114

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR ADDITION OF SECTION INFO)

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SEDU, SF  
SUBJ: DISPUTE OVER CHURCH SCHOOLS' ENROLLMENT  
OF BLACK STUDENTS

1. SUMMARY: SUDDEN PUBLIC CONTROVERSY WAS SET OFF THIS  
PAST WEEK WHEN THE ADMINISTRATORS OF CAPE AND TRANSVAAL  
PROVINCES REACTED SHARPLY TO NEWS REPORTS THAT THE ROMAN  
CATHOLIC CHURCH HAD ADMITTED NON-WHITES TO SOME OF ITS  
SCHOOLS; COLOREDS HAD BEEN ADMITTED LAST YEAR TO TWO OF  
THE PREVIOUSLY ALL-WHITE CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS. INVOLVED  
AS WELL ARE THE ANGLICANS AND METHODISTS, WHO FAVOR BUT  
HAVE NOT YET IMPLEMENTED A SIMILAR OPEN SCHOOL POLICY.  
INITIALLY, THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATORS DECLARED THE  
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CATHOLIC ACTION ILLEGAL AND THEY REPORTEDLY THREATENED  
TO DE-REGISTER THE SCHOOLS, THUS FORCING THEM TO CLOSE.  
ALONG WITH PROTESTS FROM THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE COMMUNITY,  
SOME AUTHORITATIVE AFRIKANER ELEMENTS, WHILE AVOIDING DIRECT  
CRITICISM OF ADMINISTRATORS, ADVOCATED ALLOWING PRIVATE  
SCHOOLS TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES. WHILE CATHOLIC  
SPOKESMAN HELD THEIR GROUND, THEY DISCLAIMED ANY WISH FOR

CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT. SPOKESMEN FOR ALL THREE CHURCHES AGREED TO CONSULT AMONG THEMSELVES ON THE ISSUE. ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOP BURNETT THEN MET WITH CAPE ADMINISTRATOR MUNNIK, WHO HAD SAID THE PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES WERE NOT "INFLEXIBLE" ON THE MATTER. THE TWO TERMED THE MEETING "CORDIAL" AND MUNNIK UNDERTOOK TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE CABINET AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. ON JAN 25, MINED KOORNHOF AND ADMINISTRATORS ISSUED STATEMENT WARNING THAT CONTINUED DISREGARD FOR THE LAW HAD "SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS WITH REGARD TO NON-RECOGNITION OF SCHOOLS" WHILE AT THE SAME TIME EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS OF AUTHORITIES TO "DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS OF CHURCH INSTITUTIONS... TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE STANDPOINT OF PARENTS." END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE CATHOLIC SOUTH AFRICAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE LAST FEBRUARY, IT WAS DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE THAT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WOULD BE OPENED TO ALL RACES. TWO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OPERATED BY THE DOMINICAN ORDER IN CAPE TOWN THEN QUIETLY ADMITTED A FEW COLORED PUPILS ON A TRIAL BASIS TO TEST STUDENT AND PARENT REACTION. THE EXPERIMENT WAS JUDGED SUCCESSFUL AND SOME OTHER CHURCH SCHOOLS DECIDED TO TAKE IN QUALIFIED BLACKS AND INDIANS AS WELL THIS YEAR. AT SEPTEMBER 1976 SYNOD, THE ANGLICANS ALSO ADOPTED AN OPEN SCHOOL POLICY, THOUGH NO ACTION ON THAT DECISION HAS APPARENTLY YET BEEN TAKEN. THE METHODISTS ARE IN A SIMILAR POSITION AND "WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS WITH INTEREST."

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EM FOLLOWING PRESS REPORTS JANUARY 20 THAT SOME ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN CAPE TOWN AND TRANSVAAL PROVINCES HAD IN FACT ENROLLED BLACK AND COLORED STUDENTS THIS YEAR, THE ADMINISTRATORS OF THOSE PROVINCES, DR. L. A. P. A. MUNNIK (CAPE) AND SYBRAND VAN NIEKERK (TRANSVAAL), WERE QUOTED IN HEADLINE STORIES AS ASSERTING THAT ADMISSION OF NON-WHITE STUDENTS IN CONTRARY TO THE TERMS OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS' REGISTRATION AND FAILURE TO REMOVE SUCH STUDENTS WOULD RESULT IN CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION. ACCORDING TO SOME REPORTS, THE ADMINISTRATORS ALSO SAID THAT ANY PARENTS WHO FAILED TO WITHDRAW THEIR CHILDREN IN SUCH CASES WOULD BE TAKEN TO COURT, ALTHOUGH VAN NIEKERK LATER ISSUED A DENIAL OF THIS POINT.

4. PRP AND UP SPOKESMEN AND THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS WERE, NOT SURPRISINGLY, HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE ADMINISTRATORS' STAND, BUT MORE SIGNIFICANT WAS THE RESPONSE FROM THE AFRIKANER SIDE. AUTHORITATIVE AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER DIE BURGER JANUARY 22 QUOTED MUNNIK

AS SAYING THAT, WHILE DELIBERATE CONFRONTATION AND PROVOCATION WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED, THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION WAS "NOT INFLEXIBLE" AND THE CHURCHES WERE AWARE THAT EXCEPTIONS TO SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY COULD BE ARRANGED IF REPRESENTATIONS WERE MADE THROUGH PROPER CHANNELS. THOUGH THE SAME PAPER EDITORIALY CASTIGATED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ON JAN 22 FOR "UNWORTHY" SURRENDER TO "OUTSIDE" INSTIGATION IN SEEKING CONFRONTATION FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES, TWO DAYS LATER DIE BURGER CONCEDED "THER IS SOMETHING IN THE ARGUMENT THAT ENGLISH-SPEAKERS... SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES OVER ADMISSION TO THEIR PRIVATE SCHOOLS." THE SAME NOTE WAS STRUCK BY AFRIKAANS OGGENBLAD, BEELD, AND RAPPORT, AS WELL AS BY NATIONAL PARTY SENATOR DENIS WORRALL; THEY ADDED THAT WHAT WAS NOT NEEDED WAS "CONFRONTATION" ON THE ISSUE. THE PRESS REPORTS IMILAR SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY LEADING AFRIKANER CHURCHMEN. DR. J.D. VORSTER, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MODERATOR OF THE CAPE SYNOD OF THE NGK, HOWEVER, DENOUNCED THE CATHOLIC ACTION. DEFENSE MINISTER BOTHA ALSO CAME TO THE DEFENSE OF MUNNIK AND VAN NIEKERK. HE SAID NATIONA PARTY EDUCATION POLICY IS LAW AND IT DOES NOT CONTEMPLATE INTEGRATION, BUT HE DID ALLOW THERE ARE "PRACTICAL" SITUATIONS, SUCH AS THE ADMISSION TO WHITE SCHOOLS OF CHILDREN OF BLACK DIPLOMATS, WHICH HAD TO BE LEFT TO THE ADMINISTRATORS' DISCRETION. BOWDLER

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USIA-06 DHA-02 CU-02 /083 W  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5649  
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5. ON JANUARY 24, THE CONTROVERSY LED TO A MEETING OF ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOP OF CAPE TOWN BILL BURNETT AND DIOCESAN CHANCELLOR E. J. KING WITH MUNNIK AND OTHER CAPE OFFICIALS. MUNNIK AND BURNETT LATER ISSUED STATEMENT TERMING MEETING "CORDIAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE" AND AN EFFORT TO FIND SOLUTION TO WHAT WAS REGARDED AS A "JOINT PROBLEM." THE ANGLICAN REPRESENTATION FOR PERMISSION TO ADMIT PUPILS "ON THE BASIS OF ACADEMIC ACCEPTABILITY WERE SYMPATHETICALLY RECEIVED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR." MUNNIK SAID THAT SINCE POLICY IS INVOLVED, AMENDMENT OF EXISTING CONDITIONS OF PRIVATE SCHOOL REGISTRATION MAY BE NECESSARY; NO IMMEDIATE ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN BUT ISSUE WOULD BE RAISED "AT CABINET LEVEL" AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

6. ON JANUARY 25 MINISTER OF EDUCATION KOORNHOF JOINED WITH MUNNIK AND VAN NIEKERK IN ISSUING A STATEMENT  
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REGRETTING SOME CHURCH INDIVIDUALS HAD SOUGHT CONFRONTATION WITH EDUCATION AUTHORITIES, WARNING "CONTINUED DISREGARD OF THE LAW CONTAINED SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS," NOTING A CONDITION OF PRIVATE SCHOOL REGISTRATION WAS THAT "NO NON-WHITE PUPILS ARE ALLOWED IN A SCHOOL FOR WHITE PUPILS," BUT RECOGNIZING PRIVATE SCHOOLS ARE OPERATED WITH THE COOPERATION OF PARENTS "WHOSE VIEWS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT" AND EXPRESSING A WILLINGNESS "TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS OF THE CHURCH INSTITUTIONS AND HELP FIND SOLUTIONS."

7. DIRECTLY IN THE LINE OF FIRE, CATHOLIC LEADERS HAVE DECLINED TO SAY PUBLICLY HOW MANY OF THEIR SCHOOLS ARE ADMITTING NON-WHITES OR HOW MANY SUCH STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ENROLLED. NOTING THAT THE ADMISSION OF COLORED STUDENTS LAST YEAR HAD CAUSED NO STIR, THEY HAVE TAKEN LINE THERE IS NO INTENTION TO CONFRONT THE GOVERNMENT, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE IF THE MATTER HAD BEEN HANDLED WITHOUT PUBLICITY, BUT, IN ANY EVENT, IT IS "MATTER OF CONSCIENCE" THAT ALL PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IF THEY WANT IT. FATHER SCHOLTERN, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF

THE SA BISHOPS' CONFERENCE QUOTED BY PRESS AS CONFIRMING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAD TAKEN A FIRM STAND ON THE QUESTION OF OPEN SCHOOLS AND WOULD CONTINUE ITS POLICY "REGARDLESS."

8. ARCHBISHOP OF CAPE TOWN OWEN CARDINAL MCCANN TOLD CONGENOFF JAN 26 THAT MATTER WAS "BLOWN UP" BY THE PRESS. HE CONFIRMED THAT "A FEW" COLORED STUDENTS WERE ADMITTED TO TWO SCHOOLS IN CAPE TOWN LAST YEAR AND SAID AUTHORITIES WERE "PERFECTLY AWARE" OF IT. DECISION TO OPEN OTHER SCHOOLS THIS YEAR WAS DECISION OF LOCAL BISHOPS ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTION. HE SAID HE THOUGHT INVOLVED WERE TWO OR THREE SCHOOLS IN TRANSVAAL, A FEW IN NATAL, TWO IN PORT ELIZABETH, AND THREE IN CAPE TOWN. NUMBERS OF STUDENTS CONCERNED WERE IN ANY CASE VERY FEW SINCE MOST NON-WHITES COULD NOT AFFORD THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEES. CHURCH LEADERS HAD INTERPRETED LACK OF OFFICIAL PROTEST OVER LAST YEAR'S ENROLLMENT OF COLOREDS TO MEAN THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO TURN A BLIND EYE IF POLICY WERE EXTENDED TO SOME OTHER SCHOOLS. HE CHOSE TO INTERPRET OPTIMISTICALLY THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY MINED KOORNHOF AND ADMINISTRATORS, POINTING TO THE ASSERTION THAT GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS AND TAKE ACCOUNT OF PARENTS' VIEWS. HE SAID SOUTH AFRICAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE WILL MEET IN PRETORIA NEXT WEEK TO DECIDE NEXT STEP. HE DID NOT INTEND TO APPROACH CAPE ADMINISTRATOR BEFORE THEN. AS TO PROPOSED MEETING OF THREE CHURCHES, HE SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE BEING HELD BY ARCHBISHOP HURLEY OF NATAL WITH LEADERS OF OTHER TWO CHURCHES AND MEETING PROBABLY WOULD BE HELD BUT NOT NECESSARILY IN NEAR FUTURE. WHILE REFUSING TO SPECULATE ON POSSIBLE FURTHER GOVERNMENT ACTION, CARDINAL MCCANN SAID FIRMLY "I DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHALL RETREAT FROM OUR POLICY OF OPEN SCHOOLS."

9. THE INITIAL REACTIONS OF THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATORS ASIDE, THE GOVERNMENT SEEMS, AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF NEAR SILENCE, TO HAVE MOVED WITH SOME CARE IN THE HOPE OF ACHIEVING TWO-FOLD AIM: (1) UNDERSCORING FACT THAT PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DEFY THE GOVERNMENT, WHILE (2) REMOVING THE QUESTION FROM THE LIMELIGHT AND AVERTING MORE OPEN AND ACRIMONIOUS CONFLICT THAN ALREADY NORMALLY EXISTS WITH THESE LARGE CHURCHES. (THE CATHOLICS ARE SAID TO NUMBER 1.6 MILLION OF ALL RACES AND THE ANGLICANS 1.8 MILLION.) WHETHER SOME FORM OF MULTI-RACIAL SCHOOLING WILL ULTIMATELY BE PERMITTED IN PRIVATE CHURCH INSTITUTIONS REMAINS TO BE SEEN. HAVING COUNTENANCED COLORED ADMISSION TO TWO FORMERLY ALL-WHITE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS LAST YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IS AWKWARD. PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES

IGNORED THE ADMISSION OF SOME COLORED STUDENTS TO WHITE  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS LAST YEAR IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF TERMS  
OF THEIR REGISTRATION AS LAID DOWN BY THOSE SAME  
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AUTHORITIES. AT THE SAME TIME, GOVERNMENT MUST NOT BE  
SEEN AS ALLOWING CHURCHES TO DICTATE TO IT. THE GOVERNMENT  
HAS NOT YET CLOSED THE DOOR ENTIRELY TO COMPROMISE, BUT,  
IF AND WHEN A WAY IS FOUND TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO THE  
CHURCH SCHOOLS, THE CONDITIONS AND CONTROLS WILL DOUBTLESS  
BE QUITE STRINGENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, SEDU, SF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/9b3408d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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